



## Western Library System Helping libraries serve our communities.

### WLS “Transforms,” from the Interim Director

The Libraries Transform™ Campaign is an initiative of the American Library Association (ALA). The campaign is designed to increase public awareness of the value, impact, and services provided by libraries and library professionals. Observing library professionals in our academic, public, special, and school libraries the last three months supports my supposition that libraries have been “transforming” during my six-year hiatus from the profession. Just keeping up with my personal technology has become a very time-consuming endeavor. All librarians and staff working in any library and staying ahead of all the technological transformations need to be commended for their efforts to keep educating and serving their patrons.

The 2016 NLA/NSLA Joint Annual Conference “Libraries Transform” in Omaha, October 19-21 provided a perspective on how libraries are transforming, because learning never stops. The Do Space® was a preconference session that allowed attendees the opportunity to experience a new one-of-a-kind concept. This facility is a community-technology library, a digital workshop, and an innovation playground. The first time I entered this library was shortly after they opened the doors Nov 2015. My 3-year-old grandson and I were looking for something different to do in Omaha. We had already attended three Omaha Public Library story hours and the usual attractions. I read an article in the Omaha World Herald about Do Space®, and the Littles Lab caught my eye. Wow, Hudson taught me how to use the technology that day. This library is one big makerspace for all ages, at 72nd and Dodge Streets. Check out the Grand Opening video at the following link to learn more about this technology library:

<http://www.dospace.org/about>

In the past three months I have learned a lot from many of you during the phone calls and visits throughout our 21-county area of the Western Library System. During the next few months I will be sharing our member libraries’ transformations and conference sessions through this newsletter. Check out the photos and captions in this edition. We want to thank everyone that contributed photos and articles. We invite you to get your “brag on” as you have a lot to share for our next issue.

Pat Gross, Interim Director

*“Google can bring you back 100,000 answers, a librarian can bring you back the right one.”*

• Neil Gaiman

### In This Issue

- WLS Transforms
- Commission News
- Calendar & WLS Communication
- Library Tips & Solar Eclipse
- Mini-Grant Awards
- Display Ideas
- News around the WLS
- Books & Golden Sower I2017-18

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## New Library Commissioners

The Governor's office announced that appointments have been made to the Library Commission board. Michael La-Croix was re-appointed to a second term. Sandra (Sandy) White from Sidney and Charles (Chuck) Peek from Kearney have been appointed to fill the two vacancies. Sandy is a retired media specialist who was on the Educational Service Unit staff in Sidney for many years. She is now on the Sidney Public Library board. Chuck Peek is a retired English professor (University of Nebraska Kearney) and former Nebraska Center for the Book board member and president. Sandy and Chuck attended their first Commission meetings on September 9 and November 10.

## 2017 Nebraska Library Internship Grant Program

The Nebraska Library Commission will make up to \$25,000 available to accredited Nebraska public libraries for internships through the 2017 Nebraska Library Internship Grant Program. This internship program works to introduce high school and college students to the varied and exciting work of Nebraska libraries. The internships are intended to function as a recruitment tool, helping the student to view the library as a viable career opportunity while providing the public library with the finances (up to \$1,000 per library) to provide stipends to the student(s). Grant applications will be accepted electronically starting October 21, 2016. All applications must be received no later than 5:00 PM Central Time, December 21, 2016. Details at :

<http://nowhiringatyourlibrary.ne.gov/internships.asp>

Questions may be directed to: JoAnn McManus, Grants Program Manager, or call 402-471-4870 or 800-307-2665.

## Meet Sandy White

**Sandy White** was a Nebraska educator for more than forty years. Before retiring, she served panhandle schools for several years as the Library-Media Services Director for Educational Service Units 13 and 14. She served on the board of the Western Library System (formerly known as the Panhandle Library System). She also served on the board, including a term as president, of the Nebraska School Library Association (formerly known as the Nebraska Educational Media Association). She currently serves on the board of the Sidney Public Library and has recently been appointed to serve as a Commissioner on the Nebraska Library Commission board.



**Sandy White**

Photo and information provided by Nebraska Library Commission

## Mark Your Calendar

WLS Office Closed-Thanksgiving  
Nov. 24-25

System Quarterly Meeting-Lincoln  
Nov. 30

Letters About Literature Grades 9-12  
Postmark deadline  
Dec. 2

Legacy of the Plains Holiday Event  
10:00 am -3:00 pm  
Dec. 3

Basic Skills-Library Services to Children & Youth, Sally Snyder  
Dec. 5-17

Gering Public Library - Holiday Open House  
3:00 – 6:00 pm  
Dec. 9

West NE Family Research & History Center Holiday Open House  
11:00 a.m.- 7:00 p.m.  
Dec. 16

Nebraska Library Internship Grant applications due before 5:00 p.m. Central Time.  
Dec. 21

WLS Office Closed – Happy Holidays  
Dec. 23-26

WLS Office Closed - Year's Day Holiday  
Dec. 30, 2016 -Jan. 2, 2017

SRP "Build A Better World" workshop—collaboration with CPLS at McCook.  
Jan. 6

Letters About Literature Grades 4-8  
Postmark deadline  
Jan. 9

WLS Board Meeting-Railway Office Plaza, Conf. Room – 10:00 a.m.  
Jan. 10

## Communication is important in every organization.

One area of concern encountered during contact visits and phone calls is the barrier of communication between system members and the system office. The Western Library System office uses several forms of communication to get important information out to all member librarians and staff. Timely and immediate information is disseminated in several formats from different sources.

**Listserves** - The Nebraska Library Commission hosts a number of library-related mailing lists. To be included on the Western Library System list requires you to subscribe.

- Go to the NLC Website: <http://nlc.nebraska.gov/scripts/lists/subscribe2.asp> Select the WLS list and enter the required information. Click Join List.

**Emails** - WLS interim director may send individual emails to a library. From: [wlsinterimdirector@gmail.com](mailto:wlsinterimdirector@gmail.com)

**Western Library System** - Follow the WLS Website: <http://libraries.ne.gov/wls/>

**Nebraska Library Commission** - Follow the NLC Website: <http://nlc.nebraska.gov/>

This is updated every Monday. (Not on a legal Monday holiday)

The screenshot displays the Nebraska Library Commission website. At the top, there's a navigation bar with links: Calendar, Library Directory, NLC Catalog, Site Map, and Ask A Librarian. Below this is a search bar labeled 'Listserver (library mailing lists)'. The main header reads 'Nebraska Library Commission'. On the left, a sidebar lists various categories: About Us, Accreditation, Certification, Blogs, Publications, Children's YA, Collections at NLC, Discounts, Group Purchases, Education, Training, Government Documents, Grants, Funding, E-rate, Jobs, Careers, Now Hiring, Library Management, Library Organizations, Nebraska Libraries, Reference, ILL, Regional Library Systems, and Talking Books & Braille. The main content area is titled 'Library Commission News & Announcements' and features several articles with 'More' links. These include 'Friday Reads: The All-Girl Filling Station's Last Reunion by Fannie Flagg', 'NCompass Live: Computer Networking for Librarians', 'Throwback Thursday: Union Pacific Railroad Headquarters', 'The History of Voting Rights in the United States', 'NCompass Live: Do Space: Omaha's Digital Library', and 'Friday Reads: The Secret History of Wonder Woman'. On the right, a section titled 'Libraries in the News' lists recent news items, including 'Library seeks donations of wrapping materials', 'Black Elk, Neihardt art installed at new library', 'Easley library branch presents ukulele concert', 'Public invited to preview Three Little Pigs: The True Story at library', 'South Branch Library to close for repairs', and 'Hemingford Public Library'. At the bottom right, there's a 'Library Buzz' section mentioning '4 STAR LIBRARY' and 'Throwback Thursday: Union Pacific Railroad Headquarters'.

Visit the Nebraska Library Commission Website for News and Announcements.



## Useful Library Tips:

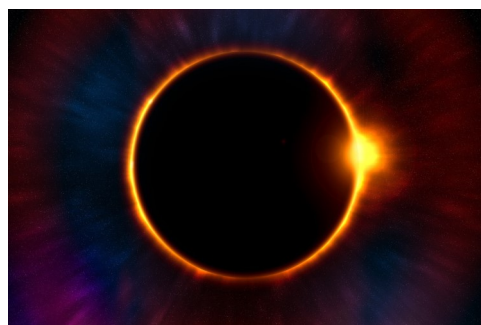
I'm sure we all have horror stories about brand new books that come in with coffee stains (or worse) on them, the ones that smell like a smoker's den, or the ones that have actual food inside them. Probably the worst we had to deal with at our library, was the man whose books we eventually learned to open over a wastebasket to let the cockroaches fall out. I will say, the books weren't damaged!

Anyway, there are some simple solutions for some of the problems we all face. The easiest to deal with are books that come in smelling of cigarettes. Keep some dryer freshener sheets on hand, and put one or two in a plastic bag, put the books in with them and close the bag tight. Let them stand about 24 hours before removing the books; they will have lost the smoke smell. We also go over them with a very slightly damp cloth afterwards. This will also work on mildew smell to some extent. You can re-use the sheets several times before you have to replace them.

If you have coffee stains, you can carefully go over them with one of the new liquid paper tape pens. Just pass the pen over the stain until it is covered. If you have actual liquid paper, you can use it on the outside of the pages to get rid of most of the stain. (If your liquid paper gets gummy, just add a couple of drops of rubbing alcohol to the bottle.) You can also use the tape on some food stains, depending on how bad they are.

And finally, if you get a children's book back with crayon marks, if the paper is the shiny kind, you can use "Goo Gone" to gently rub at the crayon. Your book will smell very strongly of orange/lemon for a while, but the pages will look better. This won't work unless the pages are shiny, because the paper will disintegrate.

Article submitted by  
Maryruth Reed, Board President



## Getting Ready For The Solar Eclipse

The last total solar eclipse for the U.S. was nearly 40 years ago, and the next total eclipse that will be visible in the Continental U.S. after 2017 will be in 2024.

On Monday, August 21, 2017, a total eclipse of the Sun will be visible in the Continental U.S. Communities in Nebraska will have the chance to see the daytime Sun covered by the Moon. (Weather permitting) some communities will fall directly under the Sun's shadow and have the most ideal view of a total eclipse.

There are over 1100 libraries in the U.S. that have registered to host an eclipse event in their community. Is your library one of them? If not, you can register your public library to receive FREE Solar Viewing Glasses!

<http://www.starnetlibraries.org/2017-eclipse-registration/>

<http://www.starnetlibraries.org/>

Another site to visit:

<http://nationaleclipse.com/>

Maryruth shared a resource that she will be using to purchase a book and viewing glasses. Check out the website: <http://orbitoregon.org/>

## Western Library System Mini Grants

The Western Library System Board of Directors read and discussed 28 Mini-grant applications on November 1, 2016 during their regular Board meeting. After reviewing each application the board awarded funds according to library-related proposals with an emphasis on literacy, library technology, and library programming.

Grant winners agree to furnish an article (Minimum of 250 words) for “The Western Sun” newsletter after completion of their project.

Arthur County Library

Bridgeport Public Library

Chadron Middle School Library

Community Christian School Library -  
Scottsbluff

Crawford School Library

Culbertson Public Library

Dundy County Public Library - Benkelman

Gering Public Library

Goodall City Library - Ogallala

Grant County Public Library - Hyannis

Hastings Memorial Library - Grant

Hay Springs School Library

Hemingford School Library

Kimball Jr./Sr. High School Library

Kimball Public Library

Leyton School Library

Lied Imperial Public Library

Lincoln Heights / Longfellow School Libraries  
- Scottsbluff

Mitchell Public Library

Mitchell School Library

Nancy Fawcett Memorial Library - Lodgepole

Ogallala High School Library

Oshkosh Public Library

Palisade Public Library

Rushville Public Library

Sidney Public Library

Summit Christian College - Gering

Western NE History & Research Center -  
Scottsbluff

Some of the mini-grants were applications for makerspaces. A makerspace is a collaborative work space inside a library, school, or a separate public or private facility. These spaces are used for exploring, making, learning, and sharing ideas that help the users develop problem solving and critical thinking skills. Makerspaces can use a lot of technology tools or no technology tools. These spaces are also helping to prepare those who need the critical 21st-century skills in the fields of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM). We will have to see what our member libraries do to create their makerspaces.

# Display ideas



**150 Books Display for Nebraska Celebration at the front door at Kimball Public Library. Jan Sears, Director.**

Shelly Hardin, School Librarian, at Gordon Rushville Public Schools has dedicated one of her large bulletin boards to promoting the Golden Sower program in her school.



**BOOKS TO READ.....WITH THE CURTAINS CLOSED**



**MOVIES TO WATCH.....WITH THE LIGHTS ON**

Maryruth Reed, reported that Mitchell Public Library has been selected to host a 3-D display about the Bill of Rights from the National Archives, through a grant of the Humanities Nebraska Council. They will receive the display some-time in early December.

Kathy Terrell, Morrill Public Schools Librarian, also reported that her library was selected to receive the Bill of Rights 3-D display. These ladies saw the benefit of belonging to the WLS listserver. and reading about this opportunity to apply.

**It pays to subscribe to the WLS mailing listserver. Directions on page 3.**

**Movie and Book display photos from Allie Reisig, WNCC Library Director**

# News Around The System

Carole Matthews, Hay Springs School Librarian, had a rather unique idea for signage. In collaboration with the ITE class made the signs with black chalkboard paint and wooden frames. The signs are hung from the ceiling with chain. They are placed above the collection section and can easily be changed when shifting or moving collection becomes necessary. This signage could be used for any type of library and can be readily seen when entering the library.



and wooden frames. The signs are hung from the ceiling with chain. They are placed above the collection section and can easily be changed when shifting or moving collection becomes necessary. This signage could be used for any type of library and can be readily seen when entering the library.

Frame could be designed to match any décor.



Tammy Howitt-Covalt, Director, reported that in January 2016, the Bridgeport Public Library began the 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten program. In October three of our young readers reached the half-way mark in their goal. Pictured: Kamry A., Braylin S, and Eleanor S. they each read 500 books and each received a medal. Tammy says, "One thousand books may seem like a lot, but if you read one book a night, your child will meet this goal in less than 3 years. If you read three books a night, your child could reach their goal in just one year!"

Making contact visits in our 21-county system area has offered the opportunity to collect some terrific ideas to share with our members. Thanks to those that sent pictures and articles for the WLS newsletter.



Lied Imperial Public Library also participates in the 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten program and has decorated a wall with pictures of their young patrons at their accomplished levels. Beth Falla, Director

If you are interested in learning more about the 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten program check out the website: <http://1000booksbeforekindergarten.org/>

# More News Around The System

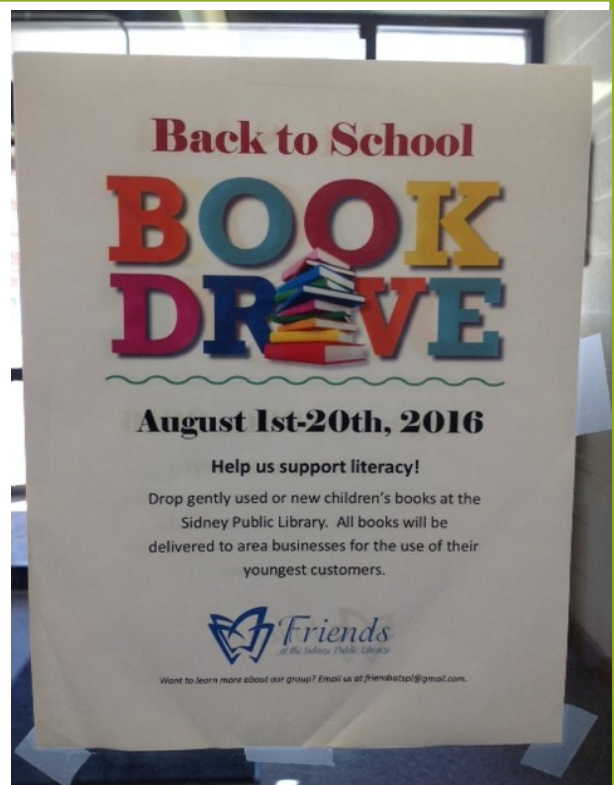
## Bridgeport Elementary Library Transforms



Amy Widener, Bridgeport Public School Librarian, reports that they are “sailing” into their second book fair in their NEW elementary library. The reading loft has been transformed into a pirate ship and the students think that the ship is pretty “awesome”. Amy confirms that it is amazing what a little cardboard does to change a reading loft. This change helps to stimulate their imaginations.

Friends of the Sidney Public Library have a Back to School Book Drive to support literacy. Patrons can drop off gently-used or new children's books that will be delivered to area businesses for the use by their youngest customers.

Window Sign Display  
Sidney Public Library  
Andrew Sherman, Director





Vickie Retzlaff, Grant County Library director, has a terrific display idea using a picture frame for the One Book One Nebraska selection.



Strategic Planning workshops help jumpstart the process for 2017 accreditation. L to R: Robin Quinn (library director) from Hastings Memorial Library in Grant, Anita Kitt (board) Dundy County PL, Pat Gross, WLS interim director, and Christine Egger (library director) Dundy County PL in Benkelman.



Looking for a way to repurpose the brown shipping paper that you accumulate from book or supply orders?

Valerie Foster, Assistant Librarian, Hastings Memorial Library in Grant explains that the tree was first used in a Halloween display then was redecorated into a Fall display.

Director Stephanie O'Conner and staff at the Alliance Public Library have been busy creating theme book baskets for their big silent auction fundraiser. Some baskets include furniture items that have been refinished to compliment the theme.



**Check out the Map Coffee Table with travel books for the fundraiser.**



Annie Boggs, Gering High School Librarian, has students stopping by the library to work on a jigsaw puzzle during their free time or lunch period. What a terrific way to create a simple makerspace. On another table students are working on a giant size adult coloring poster. When the poster is finished it is displayed in the school library.

# BOOKS BOOKS BOOKS....

Sally Snyder, Coordinator of Children and Young Adult Library Services at NLC, presented book review sessions at NLA/NSLA Conference. Here are the links to the lists of the book titles she shared.

## The Best New Childrens Book of 2016:

<http://nlc.nebraska.gov/Handouts/2016BestNewChildrensBkshandout.pdf>

## The Best New Teen Books of 2016:

<http://nlc.nebraska.gov/Handouts/2016BestNewTeenBkshandout.pdf>

## Build a Better World 2017 Summer Reading List:

<http://nlc.nebraska.gov/handouts/2016NLAhandout2017SRPBuildBetterWorld.pdf>

**24th Annual Writing Contest 2016-2017**

**LETTERS ABOUT LITERATURE**  
A Library of Congress National Reading and Writing Promotion Program

**Read. Be Inspired. Write Back.**  
A Library of Congress National Reading and Writing Promotion Program

**THEME**  
How did an author's work change your view of the world or yourself?

**Deadlines for submissions:**  
**Grades 4-6 & Grades 7-8: January 9, 2017**  
**Grades 9-12: December 2, 2016**

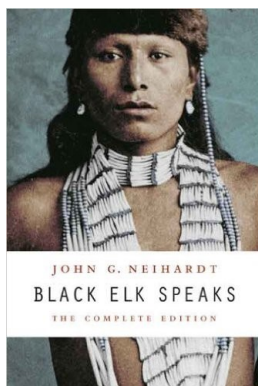
**Competition Levels:**  
**Level 1** Grades 4 - 6  
**Level 2** Grades 7 - 8  
**Level 3** Grades 9 - 12

Reminder that the Deadlines for submissions to the Letters About Literature competition is approaching soon.

For information check out the following link:

<http://centerforthebook.nebraska.gov/programs/LAL.html>

## One Book One Nebraska



### Have you Heard?

“Black Elk Speaks” was recently selected by the Center Of The Book as their choice for One Book One Nebraska 2017.

Your system office will be getting books for checkout to your book clubs. Watch for the press release from the NLC and notification on the WLS website when the books become available.

# Nebraska Golden Sower Award Nominee Titles 2017-2018

Sponsored by Nebraska Library Association's  
School, Children's, and Young People's Section



The GSA nominee list is developed by selection committees of volunteer readers representing classroom teachers, media specialists, and librarians in Nebraska. Each list is created from nominated titles sent in by participating libraries and schools from across the state.

Local library or school officials are responsible for selecting books from these lists they feel are appropriate for the needs and interests of their patrons or students. Voting eligibility requires readers to have read or heard a minimum of

**four** of the current nominees from the category in which they will be voting: Picture Books, Chapter Books, or Golden Sower Novels.

## 2017-2018 Picture Book Nominees

Bateman, Teresa. ***Job Wanted.***

Illustrated by Chris Sheban. Holiday House, 2015. ISBN 9780823433919

Driscoll, Amanda. ***Duncan the Story Dragon.***

Illustrated by the author. Knopf Books, 2015. ISBN 9780385755078

Dyckman, Ame. ***Wolfie the Bunny.***

Illustrated by Zachariah O'Hora. Little, Brown, 2015. ISBN 9780316226141

Goodrich, Carter. ***We Forgot Brock!***

Illustrated by the author. Simon & Schuster, 2015. ISBN 9781442480902

Higgins, Ryan T. ***Mother Bruce.***

Illustrated by the author. Disney-Hyperion, 2015. ISBN 9781484730881

Knudsen, Michelle. ***Marilyn's Monster.***

Illustrated by Matt Phelan. Candlewick, 2015. ISBN 9780763660116

Meyer, Susan. ***New Shoes.***

Illustrated by Eric Velasquez. Holiday House, 2015. ISBN 9780823425280

Nelson, Kadir. ***If You Plant a Seed.***

Illustrated by the author. Balzer + Bray, 2015. ISBN 9780062298898

Paul, Miranda. ***One Plastic Bag: Isatou Ceesay and the Recycling Women of the Gambia.***

Illustrated by Elizabeth Zunon. Millbrook Press, 2015. ISBN 9781467716086

Potter, Alicia. ***Miss Hazeltine's Home for Shy and Fearful Cats.***

Illustrated by Birgitta Sif. Knopf Books, 2015. ISBN 9780385753340

## 2017-2018 Chapter Book Nominees

- Applegate, Katherine. **Crenshaw**. Feiwel & Friends, 2015. ISBN 9781250043238
- Bertman, Jennifer Chambliss. **Book Scavenger**. Henry Holt & Co., 2015. ISBN 9781627791151  
[paperback: Square Fish, 2016. ISBN 9781250079800]
- Hitchcock, Shannon. **Ruby Lee and Me**. Scholastic, 2016. ISBN 9780545782302
- Jacobson, Jennifer Richard. **Paper Things**. Candlewick, 2015. ISBN 9780763663230  
[paperback: Candlewick, March 2017. ISBN 9780763694418]
- Lord, Cynthia. **A Handful of Stars**. Scholastic, 2015. ISBN 9780545700276
- Messner, Kate. **All the Answers**. Bloomsbury, 2015. ISBN 9781619633742  
[paperback: Bloomsbury, 2016. ISBN 9781681190204]
- Pearsall, Shelley. **The Seventh Most Important Thing**. Knopf Books, 2015. ISBN 9780553497281  
[paperback: Yearling, October 2016. ISBN 9780553497311]
- Sachar, Louis. **Fuzzy Mud**. Delacorte Books, 2015. ISBN 9780385743785  
[paperback: Yearling, March 2017. ISBN 9780385370226]
- Sloan, Holly Goldberg. **Appleblossom the Possum**. Dial Books, 2015. ISBN 9780803741331  
[paperback: Puffin Books, 2016. ISBN 9780147512802]
- Zahler, Diane. **Baker's Magic**. Capstone, 2016. ISBN 9781623706425  
[paperback: Capstone, February 2017. ISBN 9781623706432]

## 2017-2018 Golden Sower Novel Nominees

- Alexander, Kwame. **Booked**. HMH Books, 2016. ISBN 9780544570986
- Gratz, Alan. **Code of Honor**. Scholastic, 2015. ISBN 9780545695190
- Hahn, Mary Downing. **Took: A Ghost Story**. Clarion Books, 2015. ISBN 9780544551534  
[paperback: HMH Books, September 2016. ISBN 9780544813106]
- Holt, K.A. **House Arrest**. Chronicle Books, 2015. ISBN 9781452134772  
[paperback: Chronicle Books, 2016. ISBN 9781452156484]
- Key, Watt. **Terror at Bottle Creek**. Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 2016. ISBN 9780374374303  
[paperback: Square Fish, January 2017. ISBN 9781250104212]
- Klass, David. **Losers Take All**. Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 2015. ISBN 9780374301361
- Nielsen, Jennifer A. **A Night Divided**. Scholastic, 2015. ISBN 9780545682428  
[paperback: Scholastic, 2015. ISBN 9780545915960]
- Priest, Cherie. **I Am Princess X**. Arthur A. Levine Books, 2015. ISBN 9780545620857  
[paperback: Scholastic, 2016. ISBN 9781338032352]
- Scheinmel, Alyssa. **Faceless**. Scholastic, 2015. ISBN 9780545676014
- Schmidt, Gary D. **Orbiting Jupiter**. Clarion Books, 2015. ISBN 9780544462229  
[paperback: HMH Books, May 2017. ISBN 9780544938397]

**For more information about the Golden Sower program go to the GS website:**

<https://sites.google.com/site/nebraskagoldensower/>

## WLS Board of Directors:

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## Counties Served:

Arthur, Banner, Box Butte, Cheyenne, Dawes, Deuel, Garden, Grant, Keith, Kimball, Morrill, Scotts Bluff, Sheridan, Sioux, Hooker, McPherson, Perkins, Chase, Dundy, Hayes, and Hitchcock

Board of Directors bi-monthly meeting minutes are archived on the Western Library System website:

<http://libraries.ne.gov/wls/>



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